

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended, and claims 26 and 27 are added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-27 are pending, with claims 8, 13 and 14 temporarily withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-3, 9-12 and 15-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda (EP 1,010,613) in view of Kerdjoudj, et al (US D451,072). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the drive mechanism has a drive mechanism housing, other than a housing of a motor itself, at least partially disposed in the housing space defined by the first and second base members. Fukuda discloses a motor-driven derailleur (14) that includes a motor unit housing (56) that includes a first housing section (56A) and a second housing section (56B). A motor (262) is disposed within motor unit housing (56). The office action interpreted the housing of motor (262) to be an additional drive mechanism housing disposed between first housing section (56A) and second housing section (56B). Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the housing of a motor itself is not the type of housing intended to be covered. Thus, neither Fukuda nor Kerdjoudj, et al discloses or suggests the subject matter recited in claims 1-3, 9-12 and 15-25.

Furthermore, neither Fukuda nor Kerdjoudj, et al discloses or suggests a portion of a drive mechanism housing that is exposed from between first and second base members as recited in claim 26. Also, neither Fukuda nor Kerdjoudj, et al discloses or suggests a configuration wherein first and second base members are fastened together by a fastener that extends through a drive mechanism housing as recited in claim 27.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of Billman, et al (US 6,028,384). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above. As with Fukuda, Billman neither discloses nor suggests a drive mechanism housing, other than a housing of a motor itself, in addition to first and second base members, wherein the

drive mechanism housing is disposed at least in part within a housing space formed by the first and second base members.

Claims 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of Kerdjoudj, et al (US D451,072) and Kerdjoudj, et al (US 6,054,785). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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